

# Minnesota Employment Review

Review  
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## Career Choices

Students everywhere, from the time they are young, are encouraged to start thinking about their future, often focusing on what sort of career they are interested in pursuing. In today's economy a plethora of employers near and far are ready to enlist these students as soon as they graduate.

According to DEED's Job Vacancy Survey, a record number of job opportunities have been posted in Minnesota this year.

The most recent survey from the second quarter of 2018 estimates just over 142,000 vacancies throughout the state, which was nearly 20,000 more than the number of job openings in the second quarter of the prior year and almost 30,000 more than the fourth quarter of 2017.

Northwest Minnesota is no exception. Three of the four economic development regions reported a record number of openings in the latest survey,

over 14,000 vacancies in the 26-county region, spread across several different industries (see Table 1). That was nearly 3,500 more vacancies than any previous survey period and a 32 percent increase over the previous record high.

Although the typical education requirements for these jobs vary by industry, most vacancies can be filled by applicants with a high school diploma or less. An estimated 78 percent of vacancies

**Table 1. Northwest Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Results, Qtr. 2 2018**

Industry Title	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Requirements by Percent of Openings				
		Median Wage Offer	High School Diploma/ GED or Less	Vocational Training or Associate's Degree	Bachelor's or Advanced Degree	At least one year of work experience
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>14,136</b>	<b>\$13.02</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Accommodation and Food Services	4,388	\$10.00	99%	1%	0%	16%
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,064	\$15.56	44%	33%	22%	36%
Construction	1,841	\$18.12	83%	14%	2%	33%
Retail Trade	1,550	\$12.70	92%	7%	0%	41%
Manufacturing	930	\$14.66	72%	19%	10%	39%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	666	\$9.63	98%	1%	1%	1%
Educational Services	576	\$19.09	25%	22%	53%	80%
Other Services	521	\$15.62	41%	53%	7%	73%
Public Administration	451	\$18.60	62%	26%	12%	31%
Transportation and Warehousing	433	\$13.50	88%	5%	6%	55%
Wholesale Trade	354	\$14.74	90%	8%	1%	28%
Administrative and Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	139	\$11.04	95%	2%	3%	3%
Professional and Technical Services	135	\$14.76	32%	26%	43%	63%
Information	43	\$16.40	93%	7%	0%	86%
Finance and Insurance	19	\$18.38	49%	31%	20%	100%
Management of Companies	16	\$19.72	27%	16%	56%	84%
Utilities	12	\$23.37	0%	58%	42%	51%

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2018 2nd Qtr.

### Feature:

County Snapshots:  
Stearns, Steele,  
Stevens, Swift

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in the Northwest require that minimum level of education, which translates to over 11,000 current vacancies. In contrast, just one in five openings in the region require some type of postsecondary education, ranging from vocational training or an associate’s degree to a bachelor’s or advanced degree.

These higher educational requirements typically also come with higher wages, such as in industries like Educational Services, Management of Companies, and Utilities. But interestingly, several industries with high median wage offers have lower postsecondary education requirements, including Construction, Manufacturing, Public Administration, Wholesale Trade, and Information.

Educational requirements vary by economic development region in Northwest Minnesota. Well over 75 percent of job vacancies in EDR 4-West Central and EDR 5-North Central required a high school diploma or less, compared to just 69 percent statewide. Education requirements were higher in EDR 1-Northwest and EDR 2-Headwaters, where job vacancies required postsecondary education over 30 percent of the time (see Table 2). Despite these slight variations,

the data show that a high school graduate would qualify for the vast majority of the job vacancies in every region of Northwest Minnesota, and their opportunities increase as they gain work experience.

### Workforce Alignment

However, data show that most high school graduates still opt to enroll in college rather than enter the workforce, even in regions where only a small percentage of vacancies require it. This may not come as a surprise, given historical education trends and the fact that young people are among the most mobile of age groups.

Indeed, over one-fourth of high school students in Northwest Minnesota are already taking advantage of opportunities to join the workforce after graduation. As reported by the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS), which matches student data from pre-kindergarten through completion of postsecondary education and into the workforce, the rate at which high school graduates in the region immediately take a job in the fall after graduating is higher than the state average. In 2016 only students in EDR 4-West Central were

more likely to go to college than students in the state as a whole. However, EDR 4’s proximity to the Fargo-Moorhead metro area and the multitude of four-year universities and job opportunities in the region may be drawing students and workers out of Minnesota, as educational or employment data for over 10 percent of high school graduates in the region show up as unknown because they aren’t in Minnesota’s postsecondary education or employment records (see Table 3).

Outside of EDR 4 over 26 percent of high school students entered the workforce soon after graduating in EDR 1-Northwest and EDR 2-Headwaters, and over 30 percent did so in EDR 5-North Central. But in relation to local labor force needs, the results were mixed. In EDR 1 there were 554 job vacancies in the second quarter of 2016 that required a high school diploma or less, compared to 286 high school students who graduated that spring and immediately joined the workforce. In EDR 5 over 500 high school graduates began working after graduation, but that was less than one-third of regional openings with those educational requirements (see Figure 1).

The needs of regional employers

**Table 2. Job Vacancies by Educational Requirement**

Geography	Number of Job Vacancies	Percent of Job Vacancies by Educational Requirement					
		None	High School Diploma/GED	Vocational Training	Associate’s Degree	Bachelor’s Degree	Advanced Degree
<b>Northwest Minnesota</b>	<b>14,136</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>
EDR 1 - Northwest	1,739	37%	28%	8%	8%	12%	7%
EDR 2 - Headwaters	1,748	45%	24%	13%	7%	6%	5%
EDR 4 - West Central	4,876	38%	40%	8%	8%	4%	3%
EDR 5 - North Central	5,773	52%	35%	5%	4%	4%	1%
<b>State of Minnesota</b>	<b>142,282</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>3%</b>

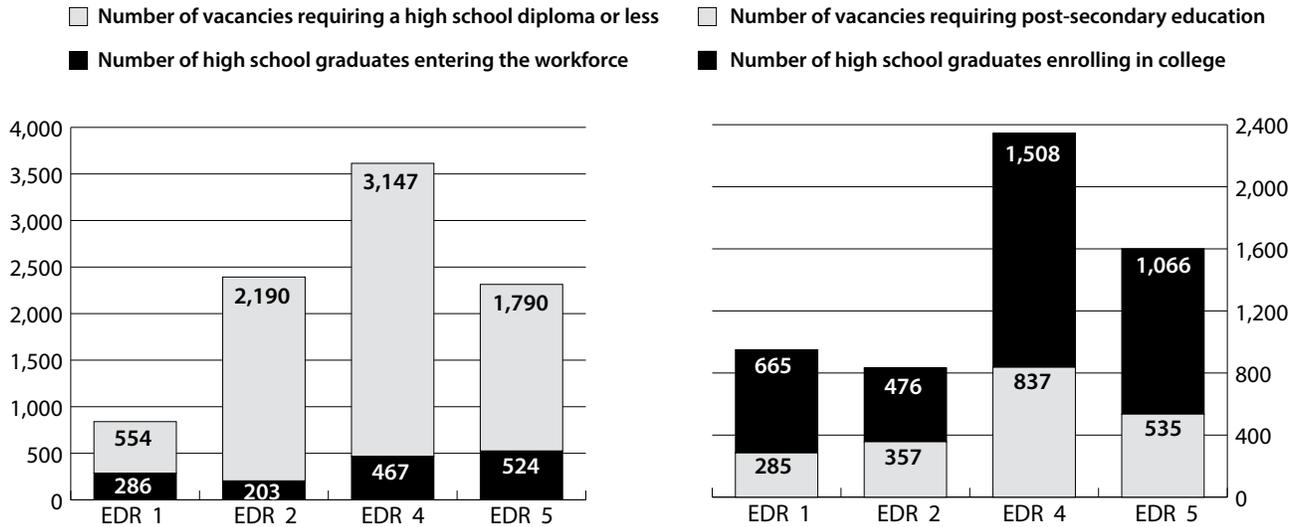
Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey 2018 Q2

**Table 3. High School Graduate Statistics by Economic Development Region, Northwest Minnesota, 2016 Graduates**

Number of Graduates:	EDR 1	EDR 2	EDR 4	EDR 5	Northwest Minnesota	State of Minnesota
Enrolling in College	665 (61.5%)	476 (64.1%)	1,508 (68.7%)	1,066 (62.3%)	3,715 (64.4%)	40,193 (69%)
Entering the Workforce	286 (26.4%)	203 (27.3%)	467 (21.3%)	524 (30.6%)	1,480 (26.6%)	13,117 (23%)
Unknown	131 (12.1%)	64 (8.6%)	221 (10.1%)	121 (7.1%)	537 (9.0%)	4,652 (8%)

Source: Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS)

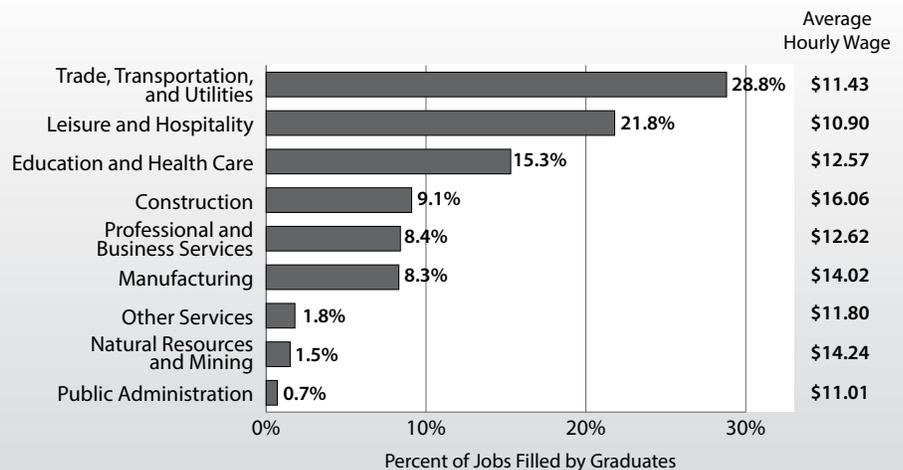
**Figure 1. Comparison of Northwest Minnesota High School Graduate Workforce Paths and Job Vacancies by Educational Requirements by EDR, 2016**



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2016 Q2, SLEDS

did not align with the high school workforce any better in EDR 2 or EDR 4. Large discrepancies occurred in EDR 2-Headwaters, where there were almost 2,200 job vacancies in the second quarter of 2016 that required a high school diploma or less, yet only 200 graduates joined the workforce straight from high school that year. It was much the same in EDR 4, where 467 graduates entered a labor market with nearly 3,150 openings for workers with a high school diploma or less. And while high school students are certainly not the only source of labor in the region, with current trends the lack of new workers is making it harder for regional employers to fill their openings.

**Figure 2. Northwest Minnesota High School Graduates Employment and Wage Outcomes by Industry, 2016**



Source: Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS)

### Wage Comparisons

The number of high schoolers that employers can draw into the workforce also depends on wages. Historically, more education has translated to higher wages<sup>1</sup>, a trend which is likely to continue. In 2016 recent high school graduates were finding work in a variety of industries, with Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, Education, Health Care, and Leisure and Hospitality – which includes Accommodation and Food Services – becoming the most popular sectors of employment. These industries

tended to offer relatively low wages – between \$11 and \$12.50 per hour – and part-time hours. However, other recent high school graduates who went straight to work earned higher hourly wages in some industries such as Construction and Manufacturing. Jobs in Natural Resources and Mining also paid well, but only a small percentage of 2016 graduates found work in that sector (see Figure 2).

Although not directly comparable, the median wages earned in the same industries by graduates from technical and community colleges in Northwest Minnesota were higher than for graduates from high school. In Manufacturing, for example, college graduates earned almost \$4.00 more per hour than recent high school graduates. In Construction earnings were over \$5.00 per hour higher (see

<sup>1</sup>Leibert, Alessia. "How Well Does a College Education Pay?" Minnesota Economic Trends. Retrieved from [mn.gov/deed/newscenter/publications/review/april-2014/college-education-pay.jsp](http://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/publications/review/april-2014/college-education-pay.jsp)

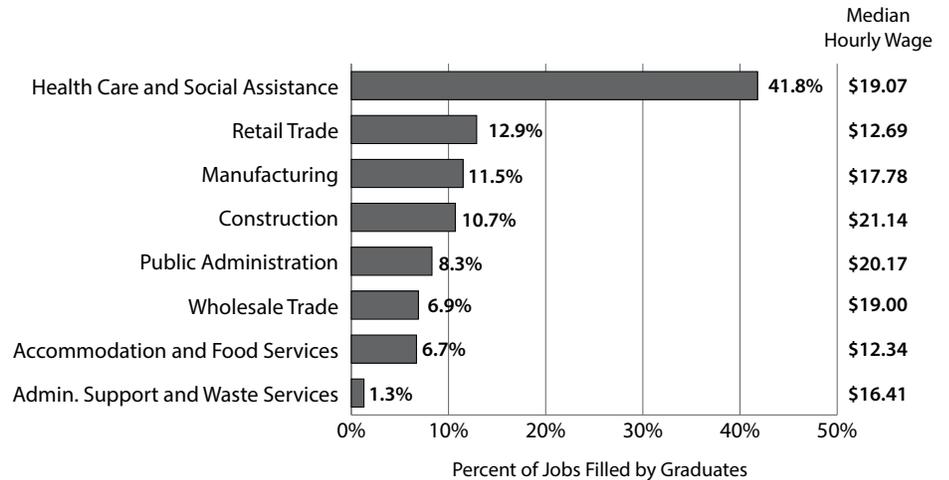
Figure 3). However, these outcomes reflect wages for college graduates after they have spent two years in the workforce, which means they are three or four years removed from high school, whereas wages for high school graduates are immediate.

As expected, graduates from four-year colleges and universities in Northwest Minnesota earned even more in the workforce after two years. Manufacturing again offers a good example. Among graduates who obtained a bachelor's degree and ended up working in the Manufacturing industry, the median hourly wage was over \$8.00 more per hour than that of recent high school graduates and nearly \$4.75 more than those who attended two-year colleges in the region. Wages in Public Administration were also much higher for bachelor's degree holders than high school graduates, but didn't vary much from graduates of two-year colleges working in the same sector (see Figure 4).

Overall, the highest number of college graduates ended up working in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry. This makes sense since most health care vacancies in Northwest Minnesota require postsecondary education. While high schoolers may begin working in this industry even before they graduate, it's likely they will need to complete postsecondary training at some point in order to progress in their careers. That is not necessarily the case in every sector, but something to consider when choosing a career path.

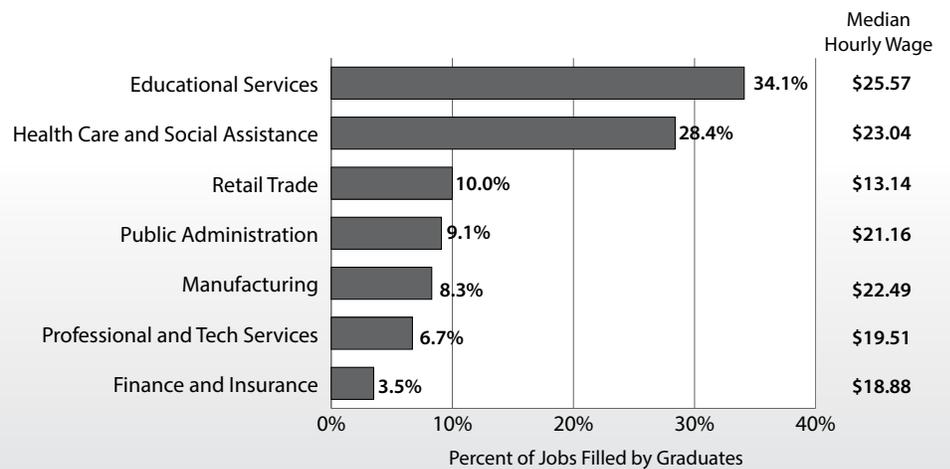
by Chet Bodin

**Figure 3. Northwest Minnesota Graduate Employment and Wage Outcomes by Industry, 2-Year Colleges, 2013-2014 Graduates**



Source: DEED Graduate Employment Outcomes

**Figure 4. Northwest Minnesota Graduate Employment and Wage Outcomes by Industry, 4-Year Colleges and Universities, 2013-2014 Graduates**



Source: DEED Graduate Employment Outcomes



## Is Minimum Wage enough to live on?

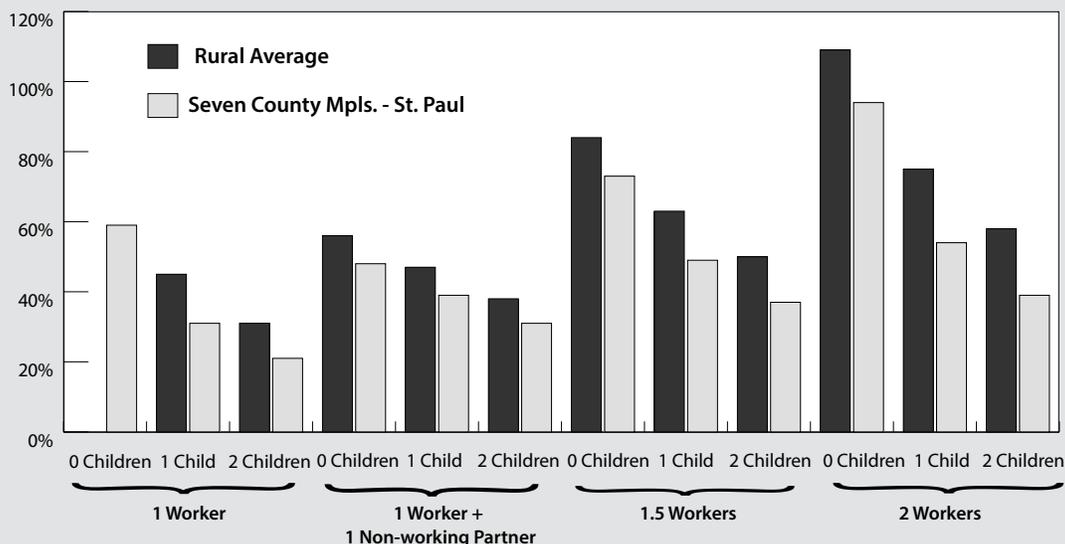
Discussions around minimum wages are often a heated debate. Workers complain that it is not a livable wage. However, raising the minimum wage can force marginally profitable businesses into losses, keep young workers out of the labor market, or force employers to automate away jobs at a faster pace.

To determine if minimum wages are enough to live on we must determine a method for cost of living, the type of minimum wage, and the hours worked.

The cost of living in Minnesota is determined by the cost of childcare, food, healthcare, housing, transportation, taxes, and other expenses. These factors will vary significantly with the age and the area in which they live. I broke out rural and urban areas. I also broke out my cost of living into 12 different categories based on 1-2 active workers living with 0-1 non-working partners, and 0-2 children. I assume the workers, partners, and children live under the same roof. The methodologies for determining the costs of each category can be found at the Cost of Living page on the MN DEED website.<sup>1</sup>

The minimum wage was determined using the 2018 large-employer minimum wage of \$9.65 an hour. Total annual wages for one worker is based on 2080 hours worked in a year. One and a half workers are based on 3120 hours worked in a year. Two workers are based on 4,160 hours worked in a year.

**Minimum Wage as a Percentage of Cost of Living**



**Results:**

The results show that all homes making minimum wages in Minnesota are living below the cost of living, except when two workers are living together in a rural area with no children. In fact, any individual raising at least one child on minimum wage is making under 50% of the cost of living. This suggests that any single parent will need to make at least double the minimum wage to meet the cost of living in Minnesota. Otherwise workers might require government assistance or need to work more than one job.

*by Derek Teed*

<sup>1</sup>[mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/col/method-col.jsp](http://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/col/method-col.jsp)

# Labor Force Estimates

## County/ Area

County/ Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017
<b>United States ('000s)</b> (Seasonally adjusted) (Unadjusted)	161,926 161,958	161,776 161,909	161,082 161,049	155,962 156,191	155,542 155,539	154,324 154,494	5,964 5,766	6,234 6,370	6,759 6,556	3.7% 3.6	3.9% 3.9	4.2% 4.1
<b>Minnesota</b> (Seasonally adjusted) (Unadjusted)	3,098,356 3,072,947	3,104,981 3,086,829	3,070,030 3,071,191	3,011,239 3,004,624	3,015,171 3,008,744	2,967,990 2,983,652	87,117 68,323	89,810 78,085	102,040 87,539	2.8 2.2	2.9 2.5	3.3 2.9
<b>Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)*</b>	<b>2,005,655</b>	<b>2,022,398</b>	<b>2,007,165</b>	<b>1,961,504</b>	<b>1,972,544</b>	<b>1,949,993</b>	<b>44,151</b>	<b>49,854</b>	<b>57,172</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Mpls.-St. Paul MSA	143,224	143,272	144,668	139,320	138,597	139,403	3,904	4,675	5,265	2.7	3.3	3.6
Duluth-Superior MSA	120,760	121,576	119,804	118,452	118,949	116,857	2,308	2,627	2,947	1.9	2.2	2.5
Rochester MSA	111,858	111,692	110,680	109,405	108,922	107,569	2,453	2,770	3,111	2.2	2.5	2.8
St. Cloud MSA	62,325	60,893	60,495	61,106	59,613	59,043	1,219	1,280	1,452	2.0	2.1	2.4
Mankato-N Mankato MSA	135,299	137,277	137,947	132,521	134,196	135,301	2,778	3,081	2,646	2.1	2.2	1.9
Fargo-Moorhead MSA	54,728	54,244	55,984	53,523	52,766	54,772	1,205	1,478	1,212	2.2	2.7	2.2
<b>Region One</b>	<b>46,002</b>	<b>45,039</b>	<b>46,778</b>	<b>44,889</b>	<b>43,657</b>	<b>45,301</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Kittson	2,281	2,249	2,243	2,238	2,199	2,180	43	50	63	1.9	2.2	2.8
Marshall	5,232	5,087	5,274	5,078	4,900	5,073	154	187	201	2.9	3.7	3.8
Norman	3,211	3,159	3,264	3,112	3,038	3,154	99	121	110	3.1	3.8	3.4
Pennington	8,656	8,565	8,996	8,478	8,361	8,745	178	204	251	2.1	2.4	2.8
Polk	16,779	16,281	16,788	16,365	15,746	16,259	414	535	529	2.5	3.3	3.2
Red Lake	2,168	2,145	2,243	2,110	2,073	2,171	58	72	72	2.7	3.4	3.2
Roseau	7,675	7,553	7,970	7,508	7,340	7,719	167	213	251	2.2	2.8	3.1
<b>Region Two</b>	<b>43,317</b>	<b>43,325</b>	<b>43,691</b>	<b>42,057</b>	<b>41,778</b>	<b>42,063</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Beltrami	23,708	23,636	24,217	23,040	22,816	23,356	668	820	861	2.8	3.5	3.6
Clearwater	4,517	4,473	4,595	4,333	4,238	4,366	184	235	229	4.1	5.3	5.0
Hubbard	10,533	10,681	10,145	10,248	10,349	9,783	285	332	362	2.7	3.1	3.6
Lake of the Woods	2,223	2,265	2,350	2,163	2,182	2,250	60	83	100	2.7	3.7	4.3
Mahnomen	2,336	2,270	2,384	2,273	2,193	2,308	63	77	76	2.7	3.4	3.2
<b>Region Three</b>	<b>163,951</b>	<b>164,598</b>	<b>163,675</b>	<b>159,385</b>	<b>159,117</b>	<b>157,394</b>	<b>4,566</b>	<b>5,481</b>	<b>6,281</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Aitkin	7,178	7,188	7,024	6,967	6,940	6,748	211	248	276	2.9	3.5	3.9
Carlton	17,686	17,652	17,666	17,208	17,106	17,066	478	546	600	2.7	3.1	3.4
Cook	3,830	3,967	3,295	3,782	3,909	3,226	48	58	69	1.3	1.5	2.1
Itasca	21,472	21,839	21,283	20,733	20,889	20,192	739	950	1,091	3.4	4.4	5.1
Koochiching	5,980	6,005	6,031	5,733	5,710	5,723	247	295	308	4.1	4.9	5.1
Lake	5,897	6,066	5,436	5,784	5,928	5,281	113	138	155	1.9	2.3	2.9
St. Louis	101,908	101,881	102,940	99,178	98,635	99,158	2,730	3,246	3,782	2.7	3.2	3.7
City of Duluth	46,247	46,106	46,386	45,027	44,780	44,821	1,220	1,326	1,565	2.6	2.9	3.4
Balance of St. Louis County	55,661	55,775	56,554	54,151	53,855	54,337	1,510	1,920	2,217	2.7	3.4	3.9
<b>Region Four</b>	<b>127,816</b>	<b>128,268</b>	<b>126,464</b>	<b>125,151</b>	<b>125,269</b>	<b>123,203</b>	<b>2,665</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Becker	18,913	19,091	17,968	18,499	18,625	17,446	414	466	522	2.2	2.4	2.9
Clay	35,815	35,452	36,478	35,052	34,596	35,526	763	856	952	2.1	2.4	2.6
Douglas	20,896	21,385	20,442	20,497	20,938	19,970	399	447	472	1.9	2.1	2.3
Grant	3,193	3,188	3,152	3,121	3,095	3,071	72	93	81	2.3	2.9	2.6
Otter Tail	31,955	32,334	31,369	31,273	31,561	30,538	682	773	831	2.1	2.4	2.6
Pope	6,301	6,304	6,218	6,194	6,183	6,079	107	121	139	1.7	1.9	2.2
Stevens	5,431	5,356	5,520	5,325	5,246	5,391	106	110	129	2.0	2.1	2.3
Traverse	1,763	1,725	1,712	1,727	1,686	1,665	36	39	47	2.0	2.3	2.7
Wilkin	3,549	3,433	3,605	3,463	3,339	3,517	86	94	88	2.4	2.7	2.4
<b>Region Five</b>	<b>85,893</b>	<b>86,854</b>	<b>83,824</b>	<b>83,812</b>	<b>84,396</b>	<b>81,134</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Cass	15,903	16,371	15,103	15,524	15,864	14,563	379	507	540	2.4	3.1	3.6
Crow Wing	33,891	34,489	32,654	33,100	33,620	31,641	791	869	1,013	2.3	2.5	3.1
Morrison	17,258	17,238	17,374	16,859	16,766	16,796	399	472	578	2.3	2.7	3.3
Todd	13,293	13,209	12,639	12,960	12,817	12,290	333	392	349	2.5	3.0	2.8
Wadena	5,548	5,547	6,054	5,369	5,329	5,844	179	218	210	3.2	3.9	3.5
<b>Region Six East</b>	<b>66,576</b>	<b>66,345</b>	<b>64,869</b>	<b>65,205</b>	<b>64,709</b>	<b>63,102</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Kandiyohi	24,927	24,786	24,215	24,458	24,240	23,656	469	546	559	1.9	2.2	2.3
McLeod	19,247	19,348	19,398	18,836	18,884	18,835	411	464	563	2.1	2.4	2.9
Meeker	13,124	13,118	13,071	12,844	12,790	12,687	280	328	384	2.1	2.5	2.9
Renville	9,278	9,093	8,185	9,067	8,795	7,924	211	298	261	2.3	3.3	3.2

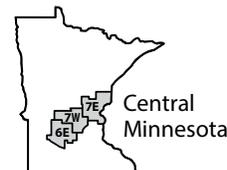
\*Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) now includes Sherburne County in Minnesota and Pierce County in Wisconsin. St. Cloud MSA is now comprised of Benton and Stearns counties.

Numbers are unadjusted unless otherwise labeled.  
Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development,  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2018.

# Labor Force Estimates

## County/ Area

County/ Area	Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Rate of Unemployment		
	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017
<b>Region Six West</b>	<b>22,705</b>	<b>22,314</b>	<b>23,078</b>	<b>22,190</b>	<b>21,701</b>	<b>22,405</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
Big Stone	2,645	2,618	2,645	2,590	2,560	2,564	55	58	81	2.1	2.2	3.1
Chippewa	6,665	6,557	6,870	6,531	6,392	6,656	134	165	214	2.0	2.5	3.1
Lac Qui Parle	3,361	3,236	3,421	3,271	3,122	3,332	90	114	89	2.7	3.5	2.6
Swift	4,928	4,905	4,924	4,804	4,761	4,782	124	144	142	2.5	2.9	2.9
Yellow Medicine	5,106	4,998	5,218	4,994	4,866	5,071	112	132	147	2.2	2.6	2.8
<b>Region Seven East</b>	<b>86,925</b>	<b>87,532</b>	<b>87,043</b>	<b>84,828</b>	<b>85,033</b>	<b>84,165</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Chisago	29,626	29,876	29,595	28,957	29,100	28,714	669	776	881	2.3	2.6	3.0
Isanti	20,980	21,157	20,818	20,465	20,564	20,154	515	593	664	2.5	2.8	3.2
Kanabec	8,827	8,919	8,901	8,601	8,645	8,590	226	274	311	2.6	3.1	3.5
Mille Lacs	12,726	12,862	12,826	12,407	12,456	12,352	319	406	474	2.5	3.2	3.7
Pine	14,766	14,718	14,903	14,398	14,268	14,355	368	450	548	2.5	3.1	3.7
<b>Region Seven West</b>	<b>238,104</b>	<b>238,837</b>	<b>236,123</b>	<b>232,893</b>	<b>233,014</b>	<b>229,408</b>	<b>5,211</b>	<b>5,823</b>	<b>6,715</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Benton	21,921	21,934	21,710	21,429	21,352	21,077	492	582	633	2.2	2.7	2.9
Sherburne	51,667	52,034	51,060	50,519	50,772	49,563	1,148	1,262	1,497	2.2	2.4	2.9
Stearns	89,937	89,758	88,970	87,976	87,570	86,492	1,961	2,188	2,478	2.2	2.4	2.8
Wright	74,579	75,111	74,383	72,969	73,320	72,276	1,610	1,791	2,107	2.2	2.4	2.8
<b>Region Eight</b>	<b>62,624</b>	<b>61,733</b>	<b>63,970</b>	<b>61,305</b>	<b>60,055</b>	<b>61,786</b>	<b>1,319</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>2,184</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Cottonwood	5,207	5,241	5,325	5,051	4,916	4,771	156	325	554	3.0	6.2	10.4
Jackson	5,474	5,471	5,917	5,357	5,317	5,681	117	154	236	2.1	2.8	4.0
Lincoln	3,242	3,187	3,220	3,184	3,121	3,141	58	66	79	1.8	2.1	2.5
Lyon	14,727	14,406	14,995	14,426	14,034	14,631	301	372	364	2.0	2.6	2.4
Murray	4,839	4,712	4,724	4,731	4,605	4,563	108	107	161	2.2	2.3	3.4
Nobles	11,094	10,889	11,139	10,866	10,632	10,809	228	257	330	2.1	2.4	3.0
Pipestone	4,955	4,926	4,721	4,876	4,841	4,610	79	85	111	1.6	1.7	2.4
Redwood	7,236	7,189	8,141	7,059	6,979	7,898	177	210	243	2.4	2.9	3.0
Rock	5,850	5,712	5,788	5,755	5,610	5,682	95	102	106	1.6	1.8	1.8
<b>Region Nine</b>	<b>133,751</b>	<b>132,380</b>	<b>132,268</b>	<b>130,900</b>	<b>129,206</b>	<b>128,648</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>3,174</b>	<b>3,620</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Blue Earth	41,186	40,241	39,944	40,342	39,358	38,957	844	883	987	2.0	2.2	2.5
Brown	14,450	14,415	14,716	14,126	14,061	14,338	324	354	378	2.2	2.5	2.6
Faribault	7,268	7,259	7,131	7,110	7,072	6,896	158	187	235	2.2	2.6	3.3
Le Sueur	15,630	15,738	15,731	15,294	15,324	15,259	336	414	472	2.1	2.6	3.0
Martin	10,044	10,234	10,133	9,786	9,933	9,802	258	301	331	2.6	2.9	3.3
Nicollet	21,139	20,652	20,551	20,764	20,255	20,086	375	397	465	1.8	1.9	2.3
Sibley	8,453	8,403	8,355	8,277	8,215	8,137	176	188	218	2.1	2.2	2.6
Waseca	9,443	9,432	9,374	9,210	9,159	9,101	233	273	273	2.5	2.9	2.9
Watsonwan	6,138	6,006	6,333	5,991	5,829	6,072	147	177	261	2.4	2.9	4.1
<b>Region Ten</b>	<b>279,638</b>	<b>279,538</b>	<b>281,879</b>	<b>273,884</b>	<b>272,916</b>	<b>274,643</b>	<b>5,754</b>	<b>6,622</b>	<b>7,236</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Dodge	11,534	11,581	11,392	11,271	11,281	11,087	263	300	305	2.3	2.6	2.7
Fillmore	11,328	11,319	11,115	11,104	11,060	10,823	224	259	292	2.0	2.3	2.6
Freeborn	15,710	15,527	15,988	15,333	15,115	15,504	377	412	484	2.4	2.7	3.0
Goodhue	26,570	26,561	26,699	26,030	25,937	25,986	540	624	713	2.0	2.3	2.7
Houston	10,524	10,437	10,434	10,330	10,221	10,172	194	216	262	1.8	2.1	2.5
Mower	20,347	20,270	20,560	19,899	19,779	20,091	448	491	469	2.2	2.4	2.3
Olmsted	85,993	86,742	85,499	84,409	84,967	83,472	1,584	1,775	2,027	1.8	2.0	2.4
City of Rochester	63,424	63,957	62,769	62,254	62,666	61,266	1,170	1,291	1,503	1.8	2.0	2.4
Rice	37,061	36,834	37,338	36,260	35,866	36,361	801	968	977	2.2	2.6	2.6
Steele	19,876	19,859	21,631	19,431	19,320	21,059	445	539	572	2.2	2.7	2.6
Wabasha	11,905	11,934	11,798	11,668	11,641	11,475	237	293	323	2.0	2.5	2.7
Winona	28,790	28,474	29,425	28,149	27,729	28,613	641	745	812	2.2	2.6	2.8
<b>Region Eleven</b>	<b>1,715,647</b>	<b>1,730,070</b>	<b>1,717,757</b>	<b>1,678,127</b>	<b>1,687,895</b>	<b>1,668,951</b>	<b>37,520</b>	<b>42,175</b>	<b>48,806</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Anoka	196,543	198,090	197,180	192,107	193,189	191,397	4,436	4,901	5,783	2.3	2.5	2.9
Carver	57,705	58,057	57,104	56,515	56,763	55,619	1,190	1,294	1,485	2.1	2.2	2.6
Dakota	241,232	243,261	241,580	236,170	237,504	234,964	5,062	5,757	6,616	2.1	2.4	2.7
Hennepin	704,821	711,222	705,958	689,509	693,748	685,678	15,312	17,474	20,280	2.2	2.5	2.9
City of Bloomington	47,073	47,518	48,091	46,022	46,305	46,719	1,051	1,213	1,372	2.2	2.6	2.9
City of Minneapolis	240,684	242,948	241,463	235,338	236,785	234,271	5,346	6,163	7,192	2.2	2.5	3.0
Ramsey	289,963	292,463	291,038	283,145	284,816	282,323	6,818	7,647	8,715	2.4	2.6	3.0
City of St. Paul	159,126	160,520	159,613	155,194	156,109	154,672	3,932	4,411	4,941	2.5	2.7	3.1
Scott	82,892	83,522	82,253	81,218	81,672	80,190	1,674	1,850	2,063	2.0	2.2	2.5
Washington	142,491	143,455	142,644	139,463	140,203	138,780	3,028	3,252	3,864	2.1	2.3	2.7



# Industrial Analysis

## Overview

Employment in Minnesota was off by 1,400 jobs (0.0 percent) on a seasonally adjusted basis in September. August's growth was also revised down from -200 to -2,500. The losses appear to represent something of a seasonal correction after May, June, and July each had notable monthly growth (up 10,700, 9,900, and 11,100, respectively). September's decline was driven by the private sector (off by 2,500 or 0.1 percent) and Goods Producers (off 1,300 or 0.3 percent). Over the year Minnesota employers added 37,339 jobs (1.3 percent). This is off a bit from August's 1.7 percent over-the-year growth. Private sector employers added 32,107 (1.3 percent) over the past 12 months, while public sector employers added 5,232 (1.2 percent).

## Mining and Logging

Employment in the Mining and Logging supersector was flat in September, remaining at 6,400 for the third consecutive month. Annually the supersector lost 114 jobs (1.7 percent).

## Construction

The Construction supersector added 300 jobs (0.2 percent) in September on a seasonally adjusted basis. It was the sixth consecutive month of over-the-month growth for the industry group. Annually Construction employers added 5,514 jobs (4.2 percent). It was the largest proportional over-the-year growth of any supersector in the state. Specialty Trade Contractors,

the largest component sector in Construction, also contributed the most to its growth, adding 4,347 jobs (5.2 percent). Construction of Buildings employment was up by 921 (3.4 percent).

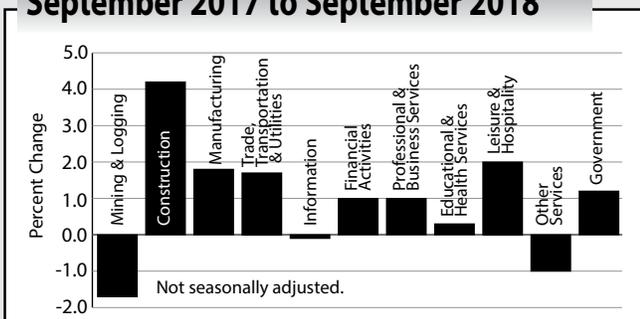
## Manufacturing

Employment in the Manufacturing supersector was off by 1,600 jobs (0.5 percent) in September. It was the supersector's second consecutive month of job losses after having gone all of 2018 up to that point with exclusively positive over-the-month job growth. Non-Durable Goods manufacturers drove the job losses, shedding 1,400 jobs (1.2 percent), while Durable Goods manufacturers lost only 200 (0.1 percent). Annually Manufacturing employment was up by 5,761 (1.8 percent). Durable Goods manufacturers added 4,409 jobs (2.2 percent). Non-Durable Goods manufacturers added 1,352 (1.1 percent).

## Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment was up by 1,200 (0.2 percent) in September, with growth in all three component sectors. Wholesale Trade added 200 jobs (0.1 percent), Retail Trade added 300 (0.1 percent), and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities added 700 (0.6 percent). On an over-the-year basis the supersector added 9,251 jobs (1.7 percent), as all three components once again contributed to the growth. Retail Trade, the largest component sector, added the fewest proportional jobs, up by 1.6 percent (4,654 jobs). Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities employment was up by 2 percent (2,155 jobs), and Wholesale Trade employment was up by 1.8 percent (2,442 jobs).

## MN Employment Growth September 2017 to September 2018



Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2018.

## Information

Employment in the Information supersector was up by 200 (0.4 percent) in September. However, August's 200-job increase was revised down to a loss of 500 jobs. Annually Information employers lost 63 jobs (0.1 percent). It was one of only two supersectors to lose jobs on the year, Other Services being the second.

\*Over-the-year data are not seasonally adjusted because of small changes in seasonal adjustment factors from year to year. Also, there is no seasonality in over-the-year changes.

## Financial Activities

Financial Activities employment was up by 900 (0.5 percent) in September. August's estimate was also revised upward, from a loss of 200 to a gain of 100, meaning that the supersector has not had an over-the-month job loss since June. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing added 600 jobs (1.7 percent) in September, and Finance and Insurance added 300 (0.2 percent). Annually the supersector added 1,888 jobs (1 percent). Finance and Insurance added 978 jobs (0.7 percent), and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing added 910 (2.6 percent).

## Professional and Business Services

Employment in Professional and Business Services was up by 200 (0.1 percent) in September. A gain of 2,300 jobs (1.7 percent) in Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services was largely erased by losses of 1,400 jobs and 700 jobs (both 0.9 percent) in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services and Management of Companies and Enterprises, respectively. Annually the supersector added 3,845 jobs (1 percent). Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services added 1,103 jobs (0.7 percent), Management of Companies and Enterprises added 720 (0.9 percent), and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services added 2,022 (1.5 percent).

## Educational and Health Services

Employment in the Educational and Health Services supersector was down by 700 (0.1 percent) in September. It was the second consecutive month of job losses in the large supersector, and both component sectors contributed to the decline. Educational Services lost 600 jobs (0.9 percent) while Health Care and Social Assistance lost 100 (0.0 percent). Annually the supersector added 1,542 jobs (0.3 percent). Health Care and Social Assistance added 1,634 jobs (0.3 percent) with growth in Office of Physicians (up 1,213 or 1.6 percent) and Hospitals (up 1,209 or 1.1 percent) offsetting the loss of 1,424 (1.3 percent) in Nursing and Residential Care Facilities. Educational Services lost 92 jobs (0.1 percent) on the year.

## Leisure and Hospitality

Leisure and Hospitality employment was off by 1,700 (0.6 percent) in September. Accommodation and Food Services lost 1,300 jobs (0.6 percent), and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation lost 400 (0.9

percent). On the year the supersector added 5,692 jobs (2 percent), the second-largest proportional over-the-year growth of any supersector in the state. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation added 1,138 jobs (2.4 percent), and Accommodation and Food Services added 4,554 (2 percent).

## Other Services

The Other Services supersector lost 1,300 jobs (1.1 percent) in September. It was the largest proportional over-the-month employment decline of any supersector in the state and the second consecutive month of job losses. Annually, Other Services employment was off by 1,209 (1 percent). It was one of only two supersectors to lose jobs on the year, and the other, Information, lost only 63 (0.1 percent). The losses were driven by Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations, which was off by 2,107 (3.2 percent). The other component sectors added jobs on the year.

## Government

Government employers added 1,100 jobs (0.3 percent) in September. Most of that growth came from State Government (up 1,100 or 1.1 percent). Annually Government employers added 5,232 jobs (1.2 percent) with growth split between State and Local employers. State Government Educational Services added 3,162 jobs (5 percent), the single largest source of the growth.

by Nick Dobbins

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

In 1,000's

Industry	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Jul 2018
<b>Total Nonagricultural</b>	<b>2,972.8</b>	<b>2,974.2</b>	<b>2,976.7</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>456.1</b>	<b>457.4</b>	<b>457.2</b>
Mining and Logging	6.4	6.4	6.4
Construction	125.4	125.1	123.8
Manufacturing	324.3	325.9	327.0
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>2,516.7</b>	<b>2,516.8</b>	<b>2,519.5</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	544.6	543.4	544.0
Information	50.4	50.2	50.7
Financial Activities	181.5	180.6	180.5
Professional and Business Services	378.0	377.8	378.5
Educational and Health Services	539.9	540.6	541.9
Leisure and Hospitality	274.8	276.5	277.2
Other Services	115.6	116.9	117.1
Government	431.9	430.8	429.6

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development Current Employment Statistics, 2018.

# Regional Analysis

## Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

Employment in the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA was off by 5,112 (0.3 percent) in September. Most supersectors shed jobs on the month. Leisure and Hospitality drove the losses, down 10,836 (5.3 percent), joined by Mining, Logging, and Construction (off 2,658 or 2.8 percent), Professional and Business Services (off 4,962 or 1.5 percent), and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (off 5,170, 1.4 percent) among others. Government, however, added 18,558 jobs (7.8 percent) on the growth of 11,499 (14.9 percent) in Local Government Educational Services and 8,100 (23.1 percent) in State Government Educational Services. Over the year the metro area added 33,342 jobs (1.7 percent), outpacing the state's 1.3 percent growth. All but one supersector, long-struggling Information, added jobs on the year. Mining, Logging, and Construction added 4,972 (5.8 percent) jobs, the largest proportional growth of any supersector. Manufacturing added 5,668 jobs (2.9 percent), and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 9,931 (2.8 percent) with growth in all three component sectors.

## Duluth-Superior MSA

The Duluth-Superior MSA added 1,251 jobs (0.9 percent) in September. Government led the growth, adding 2,339 jobs (9.4 percent) at the State and Local levels (up 1,243 or 17.5 percent and 1,108 or 6.9 percent, respectively). Leisure and Hospitality lost 1,003 jobs (6.2 percent), and Mining, Logging, and Construction lost 125 (1.3 percent). Annual employment rose by 1,133 (0.8 percent) in the region. Notable growth industries included Mining, Logging, and Construction (up 432 or 4.6 percent), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (up 747 or 3 percent), and Other Services (up 177, 2.7

percent). Supersectors losing jobs over the year included Educational and Health Services (down 482 or 1.5 percent), Leisure and Hospitality (down 267, 1.7 percent), and Professional and Business Services (down 88, 1.1 percent).

## Rochester MSA

Employment in the Rochester MSA was off by 547 jobs (0.4 percent). Every supersector save one lost jobs. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 89 jobs (0.5 percent) thanks to growth of 131 (4.6 percent) in Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities. Within Minnesota only the Rochester MSA saw loses in Government on the month, suggesting that autumn growth in education jobs is yet to come. Over the year the MSA added 797 jobs (0.7 percent). Leisure and Hospitality had the largest over-the-year growth, both proportionally and in real jobs, up by 914 (8.1 percent). Professional and Business Services employment grew 238 (4.4 percent). Notable losses came in Educational and Health Services (down 664, 1.4 percent) and Mining, Logging, and Construction (down 132, 2.6 percent).

## St. Cloud MSA

Employment in the Saint Cloud MSA was up by 507 (0.5 percent) in September. Government added 963 jobs (6.9 percent) primarily in State Government (up 779, 24.5 percent). Only two other supersectors added jobs; Educational and Health Services (up 225 or 1 percent) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (up 4, 0 percent). Every other industry group showed over-the-month losses, led by the seasonal Leisure and Hospitality (down 265 jobs or 2.8 percent). Over the year the MSA added 1,725 jobs (1.6 percent), with growth coming in most supersectors. Mining, Logging, and Construction added 349 jobs (4.9 percent),

and Manufacturing added 778 (5.1 percent). The only supersectors to contract on the year were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (off 145 or 0.7 percent, entirely in Retail Trade), and Information (down 47 jobs or 3 percent).

## Mankato-North Mankato MSA

The Mankato-North Mankato MSA added 1,603 jobs (2.7 percent) in September. This was the largest over-the-month growth of any MSA entirely within the state, continuing the area's recent strong performance. Growth was driven entirely by Service Providers, up 1,685 jobs (3.5 percent) as Goods Producers shed 82 (0.8 percent). Government added 1,041 jobs (11.4 percent), and the private sector added 562 (1.1 percent). The MSA also had the largest over-the-year growth of any published MSA in the state. This growth was shared between Services Providers (up 1,406 or 2.9 percent) and Goods Producers (up 452 or 4.4 percent). Government added 896 jobs (9.6 percent) while the private sector added 952 (2 percent).

## Fargo-Moorhead MSA

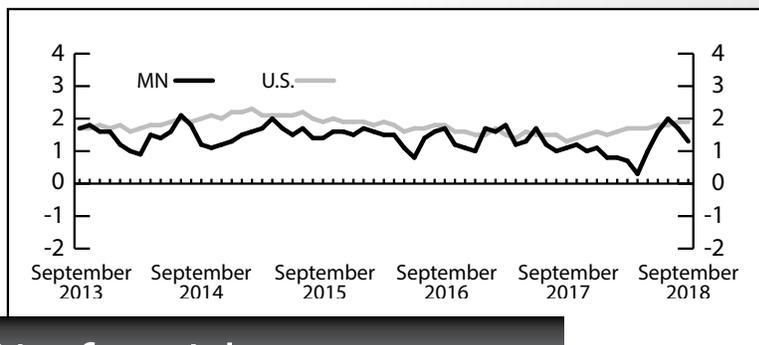
Employment in the Fargo-Moorhead MSA was up by 2,088 (1.5 percent) in September. Government added 2,885 jobs (17.8 percent) with almost all of that growth coming at the state and local levels. While only four of the 10 published supersectors lost jobs, those losses were generally larger than the gains in other areas. Mining, Logging, and Construction lost 287 jobs (2.8 percent), and Leisure and Hospitality lost 435 (3.1 percent). Annually the MSA added 1,010 jobs (0.7 percent). The most jobs were added in Educational and Health Services (up 760 or 3.1 percent) while the largest proportional growth occurred in Mining, Logging, and Construction (up 396 or 4.1 percent).

## Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA

The Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA added 2,238 jobs (4.1 percent) in September. This was the largest proportional over-the-month growth of our published MSAs. Growth was driven by 1,955 jobs (16.7 percent growth) in Government. Over the year the MSA added 21 jobs (0.0 percent). This was the lowest over-the-year growth of any published MSA in the state. Government lost 523 jobs (3.7 percent) while Manufacturers added 194 jobs (4.4 percent).

by Nick Dobbins

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Current Employment Statistics, 2018.



## Total Nonfarm Jobs U.S. and MN over-the-year percent change

# Employer Survey of Minnesota Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, Hours and Earnings

Numbers are unadjusted.

Note: State, regional and local estimates from past months (for all tables pages 11-13) may be revised from figures previously published.

## Industry

Industry	Jobs* (Thousands)			Percent Change From**		Production Workers Hours and Earnings					
	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
						Sept 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2017
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY</b>	<b>2,990.6</b>	<b>3,002.1</b>	<b>2,953.3</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>468.4</b>	<b>477.9</b>	<b>457.2</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Mining, Logging, and Construction</b>	<b>142.1</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>136.7</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Mining and Logging</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Construction</b>	<b>135.4</b>	<b>139.6</b>	<b>129.9</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	87.2	90.2	82.8	-3.3	5.2	\$1,286.81	\$1,326.82	38.9	40.7	\$33.08	\$32.60
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>326.3</b>	<b>331.5</b>	<b>320.5</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>920.73</b>	<b>867.35</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>21.87</b>	<b>20.90</b>
Durable Goods	205.7	207.9	201.3	-1.1	2.2	955.33	907.19	41.5	41.5	23.02	21.86
Wood Product Manufacturing	11.6	11.9	11.5	-1.9	1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fabricated Metal Production	42.9	43.2	42.4	-0.7	1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	32.8	33.0	32.6	-0.8	0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	44.9	45.7	44.9	-1.8	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	26.3	26.6	26.2	-1.1	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation Equipment	10.4	10.5	10.6	-0.9	-1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	16.4	16.5	16.2	-0.4	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	120.6	123.6	119.2	-2.4	1.1	866.45	803.16	43.0	41.4	20.15	19.40
Food Manufacturing	51.5	51.5	49.3	-0.1	4.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>2,522.3</b>	<b>2,524.2</b>	<b>2,496.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>543.9</b>	<b>547.4</b>	<b>534.7</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	134.5	136.6	132.0	-1.6	1.8	1,087.11	900.82	40.1	39.2	27.11	22.98
Retail Trade	299.8	304.0	295.1	-1.4	1.6	477.09	443.46	28.5	28.5	16.74	15.56
Motor Vehicle and Parts	35.7	36.0	35.3	-0.9	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building Material and Garden Equipment	26.2	27.2	26.5	-3.5	-0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food and Beverage Stores	59.0	58.8	55.6	0.4	6.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gasoline Stations	25.4	25.8	25.2	-1.6	0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	60.9	61.2	58.9	-0.4	3.4	412.01	402.57	29.2	30.2	14.11	13.33
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	109.6	106.8	107.5	2.7	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	97.3	94.3	95.1	3.1	2.3	802.20	722.16	33.3	34.0	24.09	21.24
<b>Information</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1,133.48</b>	<b>1,057.38</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>30.47</b>	<b>30.56</b>
Publishing Industries	18.7	18.9	19.4	-0.8	-3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	12.8	12.8	13.1	0.3	-1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>181.9</b>	<b>182.6</b>	<b>180.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	146.2	146.6	145.2	-0.3	0.7	1,261.44	1,120.28	38.4	36.9	32.85	30.36
Credit Intermediation	62.7	63.1	63.9	-0.5	-1.8	823.97	813.33	38.2	36.1	21.57	22.53
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	19.8	20.0	19.4	-1.0	2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	63.6	63.5	61.9	0.2	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	35.8	36.0	34.9	-0.6	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>378.5</b>	<b>384.2</b>	<b>374.6</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	158.8	163.5	157.7	-2.9	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	18.2	18.5	18.1	-1.5	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accounting, Tax Preparation	14.7	15.0	14.6	-2.1	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	35.2	35.9	36.0	-1.8	-2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	80.6	82.6	79.9	-2.4	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	139.1	138.1	137.1	0.7	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	<b>537.2</b>	<b>536.9</b>	<b>535.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	67.3	61.5	67.4	9.5	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	469.8	475.4	468.2	-1.2	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	153.7	155.4	154.1	-1.1	-0.3	1,239.35	1,374.05	35.0	36.7	35.41	37.44
Offices of Physicians	75.4	75.6	74.1	-0.3	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	113.0	114.2	111.8	-1.0	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	105.8	107.4	107.2	-1.5	-1.3	496.15	464.08	28.4	28.7	17.47	16.17
Social Assistance	97.4	98.4	95.2	-1.0	2.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>285.8</b>	<b>302.4</b>	<b>280.1</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	49.3	55.5	48.2	-11.0	2.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	236.5	246.9	231.9	-4.2	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Services and Drinking Places	204.2	211.8	201.7	-3.6	1.3	282.34	275.40	20.4	20.0	13.84	13.77
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>115.6</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>116.8</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	63.1	65.3	65.2	-3.4	-3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Government</b>	<b>429.4</b>	<b>404.1</b>	<b>424.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Federal Government	31.9	32.1	32.3	-0.5	-1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
State Government	108.9	94.5	105.3	15.3	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
State Government Education	66.1	53.7	62.9	23.0	5.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Local Government	288.6	277.5	286.5	4.0	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Local Government Education	138.8	122.0	137.6	13.8	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—

Note: Not all industry subgroups are shown for every major industry category.

\* Totals may not add because of rounding.

\*\* Percent change based on unrounded numbers.

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2018.

# Employer Survey of Twin Cities Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, Hours and Earnings

Numbers are unadjusted.

Note: State, regional and local estimates from past months (for all tables pages 11-13) may be revised from figures previously published.

Industry	Jobs* (Thousands)			Percent Change From**		Production Workers Hours and Earnings					
	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
						Sept 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2017
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY</b>	2,039.1	2,044.2	2,005.8	-0.3%	1.7%	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>294.2</b>	<b>298.7</b>	<b>283.6</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Mining, Logging, and Construction</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction of Buildings	18.5	18.9	18.1	-2.1	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialty Trade Contractors	60.1	62.0	57.8	-3.0	4.2	\$1,324.03	\$1,388.77	38.4	39.6	\$34.48	\$35.07
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>202.9</b>	<b>204.8</b>	<b>197.3</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>946.68</b>	<b>917.61</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>22.54</b>	<b>21.90</b>
Durable Goods	136.1	138.0	133.8	-1.4	1.7	1,006.19	949.92	42.1	42.2	23.90	22.51
Fabricated Metal Production	30.0	30.2	29.6	-0.7	1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery Manufacturing	20.2	20.3	20.0	-0.8	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer and Electronic Product	36.9	37.8	36.5	-2.3	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control	24.9	25.2	24.6	-1.4	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	15.8	15.8	15.1	0.5	5.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nondurable Goods	66.9	66.8	63.5	0.1	5.3	842.61	856.57	41.9	41.4	20.11	20.69
Food Manufacturing	16.6	16.6	15.5	-0.5	6.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Printing and Related	14.3	14.4	14.5	-0.5	-1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>1,744.9</b>	<b>1,745.5</b>	<b>1,722.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>369.1</b>	<b>374.3</b>	<b>359.2</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Trade	101.2	102.7	97.2	-1.4	4.2	1,064.64	875.90	39.3	38.0	27.09	23.05
Merchant Wholesalers - Durable Goods	50.5	51.7	49.1	-2.4	2.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merchant Wholesalers - Nondurable Goods	28.8	29.1	28.6	-1.2	0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retail Trade	191.7	195.7	186.8	-2.0	2.6	495.99	462.35	29.7	29.6	16.70	15.62
Food and Beverage Stores	36.1	36.5	34.6	-1.1	4.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Merchandise Stores	39.0	39.4	36.5	-0.9	7.0	401.42	395.52	28.9	30.9	13.89	12.80
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	76.2	75.9	75.2	0.4	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utilities	7.4	7.4	7.5	0.1	-0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and Warehousing	68.7	68.5	67.7	0.4	1.6	847.27	770.57	36.1	37.1	23.47	20.77
<b>Information</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Publishing Industries	15.1	15.2	15.4	-0.4	-2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telecommunications	8.1	8.1	8.4	0.4	-3.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>147.7</b>	<b>147.8</b>	<b>145.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finance and Insurance	118.9	118.9	117.4	0.0	1.3	1,323.66	1,206.49	39.0	37.1	33.94	32.52
Credit Intermediation	46.7	46.8	47.9	-0.2	-2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other	17.6	17.7	17.3	-0.4	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance Carriers and Related	54.7	54.5	52.2	0.3	4.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	28.8	28.9	28.0	-0.4	2.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>326.6</b>	<b>331.6</b>	<b>322.3</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	140.6	143.9	138.4	-2.3	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Services	15.6	15.9	15.5	-1.7	0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	19.5	19.9	19.1	-2.1	2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Computer Systems Design	33.5	34.0	33.2	-1.4	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of Companies and Enterprises	71.9	73.9	73.2	-2.8	-1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative and Support Services	114.1	113.7	110.8	0.3	3.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employment Services	51.2	49.4	51.8	3.6	-1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	<b>334.0</b>	<b>330.7</b>	<b>332.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational Services	46.1	40.9	45.5	12.7	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health Care and Social Assistance	287.9	289.8	286.9	-0.7	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ambulatory Health Care	91.0	90.5	91.4	0.6	-0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	67.6	68.1	66.8	-0.8	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	58.6	59.8	59.6	-2.0	-1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social Assistance	70.7	71.5	69.2	-1.1	2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>193.1</b>	<b>203.9</b>	<b>193.1</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	36.8	42.1	37.8	-12.6	-2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accommodation and Food Services	156.3	161.8	155.3	-3.4	0.6	318.90	295.98	22.1	20.8	14.43	14.23
Food Services and Drinking Places	142.8	146.9	140.3	-2.8	1.7	314.27	288.87	21.9	20.3	14.35	14.23
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>82.7</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Repair and Maintenance	14.9	14.8	14.6	0.2	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organizations	43.4	44.3	43.3	-2.2	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Government</b>	<b>255.5</b>	<b>237.0</b>	<b>250.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Federal Government	21.1	21.2	21.4	-0.4	-1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
State Government	72.7	62.3	70.0	16.6	3.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
State Government Education	43.2	35.1	41.1	23.1	5.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Local Government	161.7	153.4	159.6	5.4	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Local Government Education	88.9	77.4	87.2	14.9	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—

Note: Not all industry subgroups are shown for every major industry category.

\* Totals may not add because of rounding.

\*\* Percent change based on unrounded numbers.

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, 2018.

# Employer Survey

## Industry

### TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY

#### GOODS-PRODUCING

Mining, Logging, and Construction  
Manufacturing

#### SERVICE-PROVIDING

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities  
Wholesale Trade  
Retail Trade  
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities  
Information  
Financial Activities  
Professional and Business Services  
Educational and Health Services  
Leisure and Hospitality  
Other Services  
Government

### Duluth-Superior MSA

#### Jobs % Chg. From

	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2017
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY</b>	<b>139,465</b>	<b>138,214</b>	<b>138,332</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>17,555</b>	<b>17,760</b>	<b>16,962</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Mining, Logging, and Construction	9,804	9,929	9,372	-1.3	4.6
Manufacturing	7,751	7,831	7,590	-1.0	2.1
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>121,910</b>	<b>120,454</b>	<b>121,370</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	25,644	25,401	24,897	1.0	3.0
Wholesale Trade	3,201	3,237	3,263	-1.1	-1.9
Retail Trade	16,099	15,851	15,266	1.6	5.5
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	6,344	6,313	6,368	0.5	-0.4
Information	1,299	1,311	1,311	-0.9	-0.9
Financial Activities	6,025	6,061	5,964	-0.6	1.0
Professional and Business Services	8,059	8,160	8,147	-1.2	-1.1
Educational and Health Services	31,863	31,701	32,345	0.5	-1.5
Leisure and Hospitality	15,114	16,117	15,381	-6.2	-1.7
Other Services	6,765	6,901	6,588	-2.0	2.7
Government	27,141	24,802	26,737	9.4	1.5

### Rochester MSA

#### Jobs % Chg. From

	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2017
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY</b>	<b>121,449</b>	<b>121,996</b>	<b>120,652</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>15,552</b>	<b>15,906</b>	<b>15,734</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,868	4,953	5,000	-1.7	-2.6
Manufacturing	10,684	10,953	10,734	-2.5	-0.5
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>105,897</b>	<b>106,090</b>	<b>104,918</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	17,709	17,620	17,537	0.5	1.0
Wholesale Trade	2,692	2,742	2,663	-1.8	1.1
Retail Trade	12,059	12,051	12,053	0.1	0.0
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	2,958	2,827	2,821	4.6	4.9
Information	1,893	1,907	1,878	-0.7	0.8
Financial Activities	2,807	2,820	2,776	-0.5	1.1
Professional and Business Services	5,671	5,713	5,433	-0.7	4.4
Educational and Health Services	48,520	48,580	49,184	-0.1	-1.4
Leisure and Hospitality	12,172	12,200	11,258	-0.2	8.1
Other Services	4,023	4,050	3,957	-0.7	1.7
Government	13,102	13,200	12,895	-0.7	1.6

# Employer Survey

## Industry

### TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY

#### GOODS-PRODUCING

Mining, Logging, and Construction  
Manufacturing

#### SERVICE-PROVIDING

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities  
Wholesale Trade  
Retail Trade  
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities  
Information  
Financial Activities  
Professional and Business Services  
Educational and Health Services  
Leisure and Hospitality  
Other Services  
Government

### St. Cloud MSA

#### Jobs % Chg. From

	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2017
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY</b>	<b>112,004</b>	<b>111,497</b>	<b>110,279</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>23,622</b>	<b>23,885</b>	<b>22,495</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Mining, Logging, and Construction	7,497	7,682	7,148	-2.4	4.9
Manufacturing	16,125	16,203	15,347	-0.5	5.1
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>88,382</b>	<b>87,612</b>	<b>87,784</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	22,136	22,132	22,281	0.0	-0.7
Wholesale Trade	4,799	4,849	4,638	-1.0	3.5
Retail Trade	13,148	13,146	13,625	0.0	-3.5
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	4,189	4,137	4,018	1.3	4.3
Information	1,496	1,522	1,543	-1.7	-3.0
Financial Activities	5,473	5,497	5,287	-0.4	3.5
Professional and Business Services	8,986	9,028	8,864	-0.5	1.4
Educational and Health Services	22,230	22,005	22,064	1.0	0.8
Leisure and Hospitality	9,238	9,503	9,054	-2.8	2.0
Other Services	3,947	4,012	3,889	-1.6	1.5
Government	14,876	13,913	14,802	6.9	0.5

### Mankato MSA

#### Jobs % Chg. From

	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2017
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY</b>	<b>60,339</b>	<b>58,736</b>	<b>58,481</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>10,822</b>	<b>10,904</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Mining, Logging, and Construction	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	--	--	--	--	--
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>49,517</b>	<b>47,832</b>	<b>48,111</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	--	--	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	--	--	--	--	--
Retail Trade	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	--	--	--	--	--
Information	--	--	--	--	--
Financial Activities	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services	--	--	--	--	--
Educational and Health Services	--	--	--	--	--
Leisure and Hospitality	--	--	--	--	--
Other Services	--	--	--	--	--
Government	10,201	9,160	9,305	11.4	9.6

# Employer Survey

## Industry

### TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY

#### GOODS-PRODUCING

Mining, Logging, and Construction  
Manufacturing

#### SERVICE-PROVIDING

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities  
Wholesale Trade  
Retail Trade  
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities  
Information  
Financial Activities  
Professional and Business Services  
Educational and Health Services  
Leisure and Hospitality  
Other Services  
Government

### Fargo-Moorhead MSA

#### Jobs % Chg. From

	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2017
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY</b>	<b>144,130</b>	<b>142,042</b>	<b>143,120</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>20,136</b>	<b>20,360</b>	<b>19,434</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Mining, Logging, and Construction	9,959	10,246	9,563	-2.8	4.1
Manufacturing	10,177	10,114	9,871	0.6	3.1
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>123,994</b>	<b>121,682</b>	<b>123,686</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	30,340	30,256	30,371	0.3	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	8,990	9,034	8,920	-0.5	0.8
Retail Trade	15,503	15,502	15,724	0.0	-1.4
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	5,847	5,720	5,727	2.2	2.1
Information	3,090	3,088	3,152	0.1	-2.0
Financial Activities	11,491	11,508	11,259	-0.2	2.1
Professional and Business Services	15,663	16,090	15,761	-2.7	-0.6
Educational and Health Services	25,144	24,968	24,384	0.7	3.1
Leisure and Hospitality	13,611	14,046	14,086	-3.1	-3.4
Other Services	5,523	5,479	5,440	0.8	1.5
Government	19,132	16,247	19,233	17.8	-0.5

### Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MSA

#### Jobs % Chg. From

	Sept 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2017
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY</b>	<b>57,267</b>	<b>55,029</b>	<b>57,246</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>7,953</b>	<b>8,074</b>	<b>7,686</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Mining, Logging, and Construction	3,357	3,478	3,284	-3.5	2.2
Manufacturing	4,596	4,596	4,402	0.0	4.4
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>49,314</b>	<b>46,955</b>	<b>49,560</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	11,607	11,375	11,561	2.0	0.4
Wholesale Trade	1,790	1,805	1,831	-0.8	-2.2
Retail Trade	7,459	7,312	7,496	2.0	-0.5
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	2,358	2,258	2,234	4.4	5.6
Information	566	560	575	1.1	-1.6
Financial Activities	1,922	1,915	1,900	0.4	1.2
Professional and Business Services	3,350	3,388	3,456	-1.1	-3.1
Educational and Health Services	9,998	9,796	9,700	2.1	3.1
Leisure and Hospitality	6,271	6,284	6,219	-0.2	0.8
Other Services	1,949	1,941	1,975	0.4	-1.3
Government	13,651	11,696	14,174	16.7	-3.7

Source: Department of Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics, and North Dakota Job Service, 2018.

# Minnesota Economic Indicators

## Highlights

The **Minnesota Index** continued to rumble along at a robust pace, advancing 0.4 percent in September. Three of the four components of the index moved positively in September with unemployment inching down again, manufacturing hours inching up, and real wage and salary disbursements increasing. The small drop in wage and salary employment was not enough to keep the index from rolling on.

The 0.4 gain by the index ranked Minnesota ninth among states, right in front of California and right behind Washington. It was the fifth month in a row that Minnesota's index increased faster than the U.S. index which advanced 0.3 percent in September. Minnesota's index has increased 3.9 percent since last September compared to 2.9 percent for the U.S. index over the same period. Minnesota's over-the-year increase ranked 13th between Oregon and Illinois.

Minnesota's adjusted **Wage and Salary Employment** decreased slightly for the second straight month, declining by 1,400 jobs in September. Revised data for August show a loss of 2,500 in that month. After adding 31,700 jobs from May through July on a seasonally adjusted basis, 3,900 jobs have been cut since August. Wage and salary employment in the state has expanded by 29,100 since December 2017 or roughly 1.0 percent.

Private employers cut 2,500 jobs in September while the public sector added 1,100 positions. Job reduction was highest in Leisure and Hospitality,

Manufacturing, and Other Services. Job expansion was strongest in Government, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, and Financial Activities.

Minnesota's unadjusted over-the-year job growth fell again in September to 1.3 percent, its lowest level since May. U.S. over-the-year job growth was 1.9 percent over the last 12 months.

**Online Help-Wanted Ads** rose 3.1 percent in September to 132,000. Job postings nationally increased 3.2 percent. Minnesota's share of online help-wanted ads continues to hover at 2.8 percent compared to the state's 2.0 percent share of national wage and salary employment. Twelve states now have a supply (unemployed workers) to demand (online help-wanted ads) ratio below 1. Minnesota's ratio was second lowest at 0.66 next to North Dakota's 0.63 rate. All of Minnesota's neighboring states have supply/demand ratio below 1.0 indicating that employers across the Upper Midwest are having a hard time finding workers to fill their job openings.

Minnesota's **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** inched down in September to 61.0 but remained safely above growth neutral (50) and continues to point to healthy economic growth through the rest of the year. The comparable national index also retreated in September to 59.8 as did the Mid-America Economic Index which retreated to 57.5. The Mid-America Index includes Minnesota and eight other states stretching from Arkansas to Minnesota.

Adjusted average weekly **Manufacturing Hours** climbed for the third month in a row to 41.4. September's factory workweek was at a 19-month high. Higher factory hours are probably from growing orders and difficulties finding new employees leading to increased overtime. Average weekly **Manufacturing Earnings**, adjusted for inflation

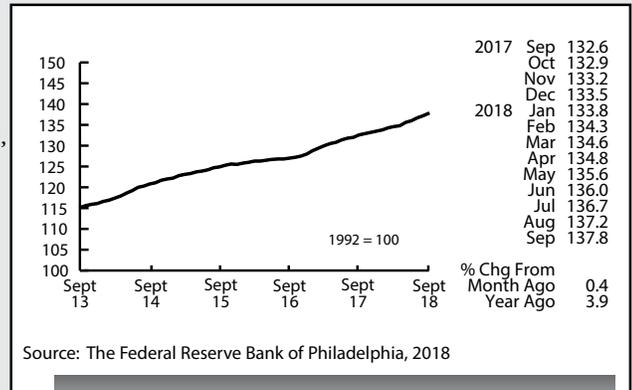
and seasonality, also jumped sharply, reaching an all-time high of \$905.47. The previous high was \$899.32 recorded in May 2006.

The **Minnesota Leading Index** slipped slightly in September, inching down to 2.0. The index remained higher than the U.S. index for the fifth straight month, indicating that Minnesota's economic growth will outpace U.S. growth over the next six months. Minnesota's index ranked 10th highest among states and continues to exceed the 36-year average of 1.5 percent.

Adjusted **Residential Building Permits** retreated from a huge spike in August to 1,941 in September. Monthly permits have averaged 2,112 since 1970 and 2,456 through the first nine months of 2018. On an unadjusted basis Minnesota's home-building permit level is up 20.2 percent through the first nine months of the year compared to 5.2 percent nationally. Most of the increase in the state is, however, from apartment building permits as single-home building permits in the state were down 0.3 percent from last year while up 5.2 percent nationally.

Adjusted **Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits (UB)** dipped for the third consecutive month to 15,152. September's level was the second-lowest of the year and is another indicator of how tight Minnesota's job market has become. The number of employers letting employees go is low as replacing workers is becoming very challenging given the shrinking pool of unemployed workers. The low level of layoffs points towards additional job growth through the rest of the year.

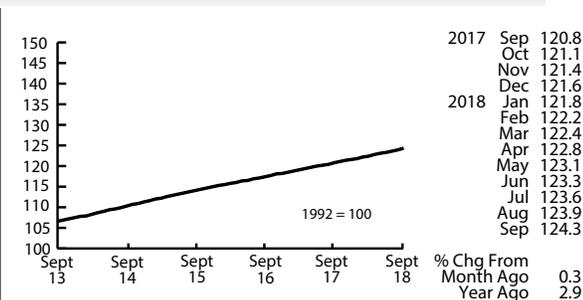
by Dave Senf



Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2018

## Minnesota Index

## United States Index

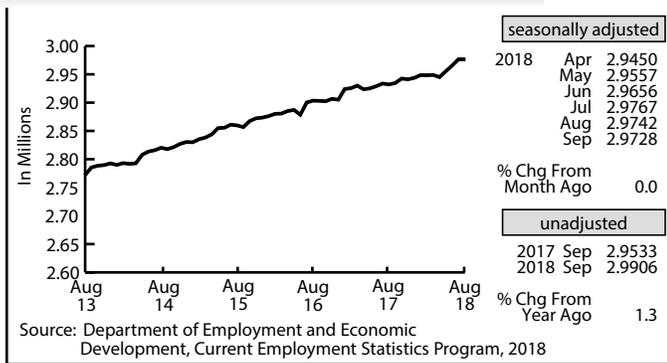


Source: The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2018

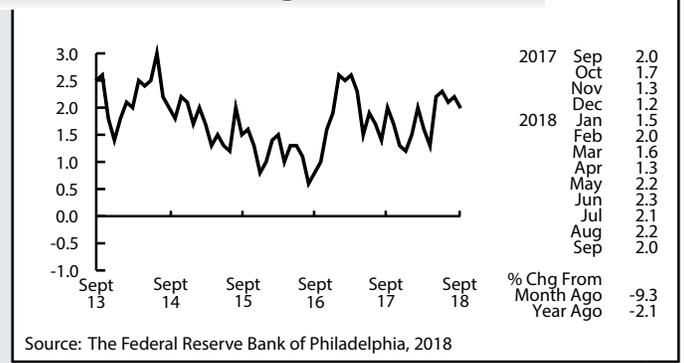
Note: All data except for Minnesota's PMI have been seasonally adjusted. See the feature article in the Minnesota Employment Review, May 2010, for more information on the Minnesota Index.

# Minnesota Economic Indicators

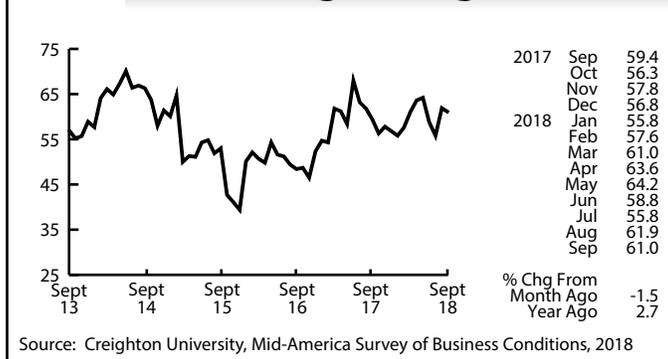
## Wage and Salary Employment



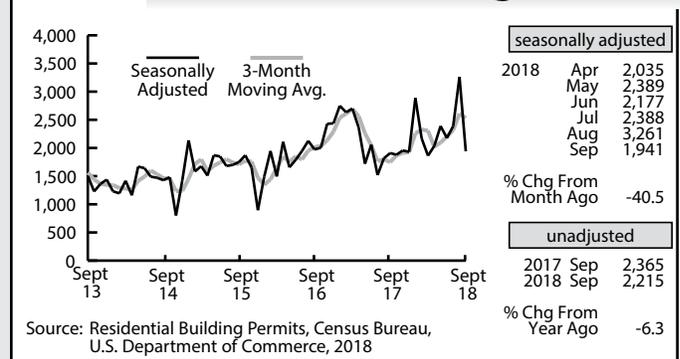
## Minnesota Leading Index



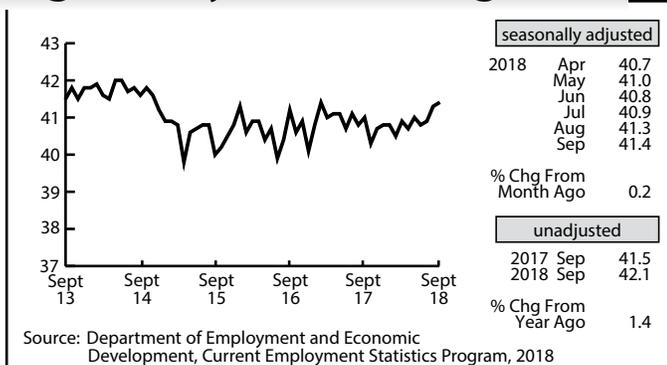
## Purchasing Managers' Index



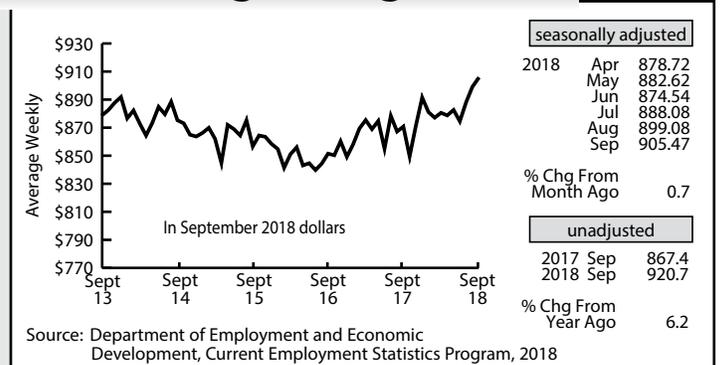
## Residential Building Permits



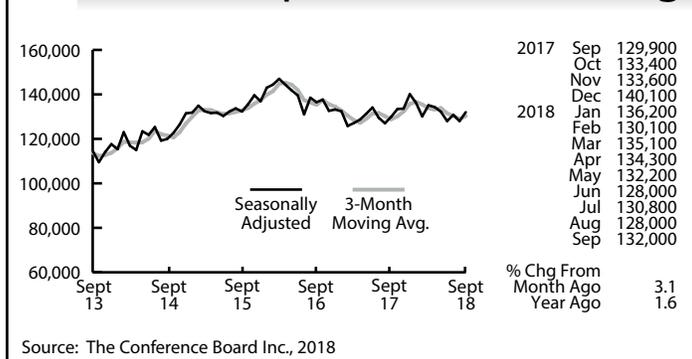
## Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours



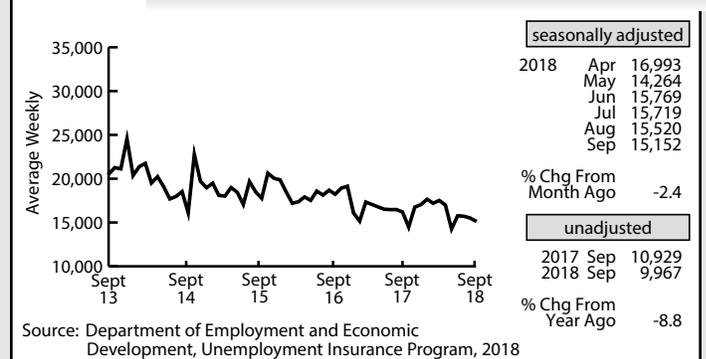
## Manufacturing Earnings



## Online Help-Wanted Advertising



## Initial UB Claimants



# Review

## Minnesota Employment



### DEED

#### Labor Market Information Office

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St. Paul, MN 55101-1351  
651.259.7400 (voice)  
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#### Help Line:

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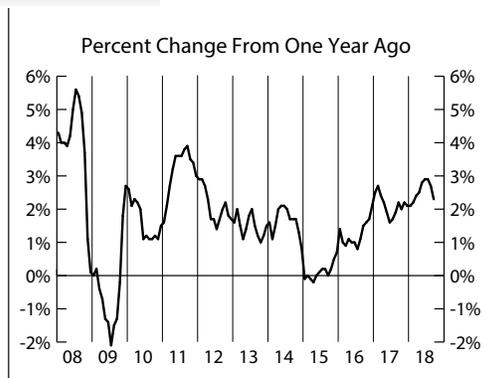
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## U.S. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.1 percent in September on a seasonally adjusted basis after rising 0.2 percent in August the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. The shelter index continued to rise and accounted for over half of the seasonally adjusted monthly increase in the all items index.

The all items index rose 2.3 percent for the 12 months ending September, a smaller increase than the 2.7-percent increase for the 12 months ending August. The energy index rose 4.8 percent over the last year, a notably smaller increase than the 10.2-percent increase for the 12 month period ending August.

[www.bls.gov/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/)



For more information  
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Minneapolis-St. Paul CPI, call:  
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or toll free 1.888.234.1114.

## What's Going On?

### New Online Guide to Assistive Technology

Assistive technology includes a vast array of hardware devices and software applications. It is designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities, including people who are blind, DeafBlind, or experiencing vision loss. There are more choices than ever before. The state of Minnesota has launched a new website: Minnesota's Guide to Assistive Technology to help Minnesotans make sense of all the options and find information on sources for funding and training. A collaborative effort among several state agencies as facilitators, the site brings together in one place the resources available.

Website: [mn.gov/admin/at/](http://mn.gov/admin/at/)

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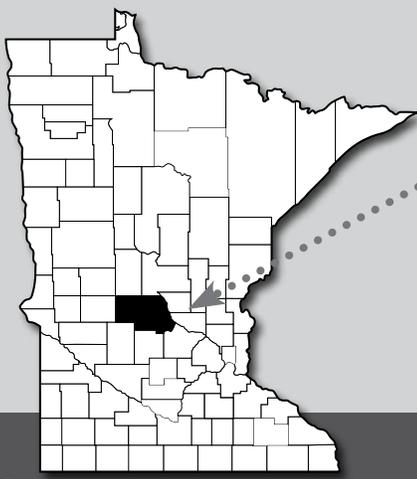
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# County Snapshot

# Stearns

## Past

Stearns County was home to several indigenous tribes including the Ojibwa, Dakota, Sioux, and Chippewa long before the first European immigrants started to arrive in the 1850s. From there, early settlers were drawn by the county's excellent farmland<sup>1</sup>, which still keeps the county ranked first in the state for the total value of agricultural products sold<sup>2</sup>. But in addition to rural areas and farms, the county seat of St. Cloud is now the 10th largest city in the state with 68,000 residents, and, with Benton County, is home to one of only five Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) located entirely in Minnesota.

## Trends

Closing in on 160,000 people in 2017, Stearns County is the seventh largest county of the 87 in the state. After gaining nearly 25,000 new residents, it was also the 11th fastest growing county, rising 18.5 percent since 2000. As a result, the county's labor force has grown to just under 90,000 workers, which was about 11,000 more workers than in 2000, although growth rates have slowed in recent years. The county's 3.5 percent unemployment rate reflects a tightening labor market in a growing economy.

With about 86,500 jobs at 4,300 business establishments, Stearns County also had the seventh largest economy in the state in 2017. Local employers added close to 5,500 jobs from 2012 to 2017, a 6.8 percent increase that nearly matched the state's job growth rate. Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employing industry, accounting for one in every five jobs, and nearly half (44%) of the net new jobs added in the county over the past five years. Retail Trade and Manufacturing both had over 11,000 jobs in the county, with Retail employers finally starting to recover from the Great Recession. Home to several colleges and universities in addition to growing elementary and secondary schools, Stearns County also has a high concentration of employment in Educational Services.

## Economy

2017 Estimates	Stearns County	Minnesota
Population	157,822	5,576,606
Labor Force	89,109	3,063,604
Average Unemployment	3.5%	3.6%
Median Household Income	\$56,977	\$63,217
Cost of Living, Individual	\$27,558	\$31,656
Cost of Living, Average Family	\$46,702	\$57,624

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, DEED LAUS, DEED Cost of Living

Stearns County has one of the most racially and ethnically diverse populations in Greater Minnesota and has benefited from significant increases in the number of people of other races and from foreign countries in recent years. Despite domestic out-migration, an important part of Stearns County's population growth came from international in-migration. After increasing almost 50 percent from 2010 to 2016, about 5.6 percent of the county's population is now foreign-born with the largest number coming from Africa, followed by Asia and Latin America.

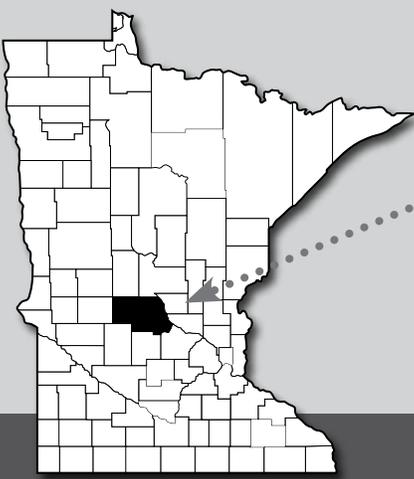
## Industry

Top Employing Industries	2017 Annual Data			2012-2017	
	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	4,299	86,484	\$45,944	5,484	6.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	427	17,299	\$56,786	2,417	16.2%
Retail Trade	646	11,861	\$28,409	515	4.5%
Manufacturing	265	11,301	\$50,165	-109	-1.0%
Educational Services	92	7,393	\$47,683	73	1.0%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program

<sup>1</sup>History of Stearns County. Retrieved from <https://co.stearns.mn.us/Government/AboutStearnsCounty/History>

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stearns County Minnesota. 2012 Census of Agriculture County Profile. Retrieved from [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2012/Online\\_Resources/County\\_Profiles/Minnesota/cp27145.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Minnesota/cp27145.pdf)



# CountySnapshot Steele

## Past

Steele County was organized in 1855 from a portion of Rice County, one year after the city of Owatonna was first settled along the Straight River. From 1898 to 1940 Steele County was known as the “Butter Capitol of the World” after local butter makers won gold medals in World’s Fairs and because Reuben Disbrow invented the combined butter churn - patented in 1896 and manufactured by Owatonna Manufacturing Company - which revolutionized the dairy industry. Down from a peak of 24 creameries, Steele County now has just one remaining in operation. Steele County is also the founding location of major national companies including Jostens, Malt-O-Meal, and Federated Insurance<sup>1</sup>.

With more than 25,750 people in 2017, the county seat of Owatonna is the 40th largest city in Minnesota, but the second largest city in the state that is located outside a metropolitan statistical area. It is also one of the 15 Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the state.

## Trends

Steele County’s labor force has grown by just over 2,000 additional workers from 2000 to 2017, but peaked with 21,570 workers in 2012. The county then saw labor force declines in three of the last five years, but big gains from 2015 to 2017 have brought the county within 50 workers of the previous record high. Population projections from the State Demographic Center forecast a slight 1.4 percent labor force decline from 2020 to 2030.

Manufacturing is still the largest employing industry, providing over 28 percent of all jobs in the county. That was the sixth highest reliance on Manufacturing of the 87 counties in the state. Despite declines from 6,056 jobs in 2008 to a low point of 5,004 jobs in 2011 during the Great Recession, Steele County’s Manufacturing industry has mostly recovered the jobs lost and now has the same number of Manufacturing jobs as in 2007.

Retail Trade is the second largest employing industry in the county, accounting for 14 percent of total employment. But while wages in Manufacturing were relatively high, wages in Retail Trade were relatively low, and retailers were cutting jobs over the past five years. The most severe job declines in Steele County occurred in Administrative Support and Waste Management Services, which includes temporary staffing services.

## Economy

2017 Estimates	Steele County	Minnesota
Population	36,887	5,576,606
Labor Force	21,526	3,063,604
Average Unemployment	3.4%	3.6%
Median Household Income	\$58,141	\$63,217
Cost of Living, Individual	\$27,407	\$31,656
Cost of Living, Average Family	\$46,929	\$57,624

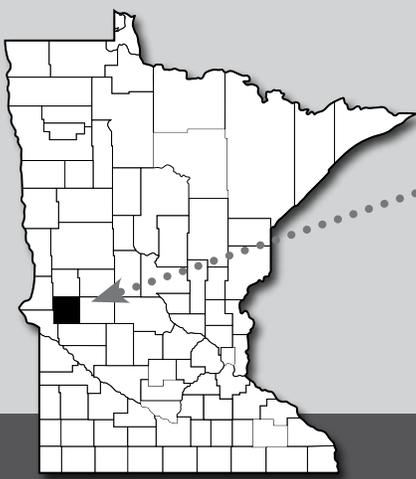
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, DEED LAUS, DEED Cost of Living

## Industry

Top Employing Industries	2017 Annual Data			2012-2017	
	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	962	20,915	\$44,843	-688	-3.2%
Manufacturing	70	5,874	\$52,714	806	15.9%
Retail Trade	162	2,915	\$24,854	-116	-3.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	90	2,387	\$48,268	140	6.2%
Admin. Support and Waste Management	34	1,737	\$27,681	-1,615	-48.2%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program

<sup>1</sup>Steele County Historical Society. Retrieved from [www.steelehistorymuseum.org/history-of-schs](http://www.steelehistorymuseum.org/history-of-schs)



# CountySnapshot Stevens

## Past

Established in 1862, Stevens County is actually the second time a county in Minnesota was named for statesman Isaac Ingalls Stevens, after a legislative clerical error denied him that honor in 1855 for Stearns County.<sup>1</sup> Located in the old Carnegie Library in the county seat of Morris, the Stevens County Historical Society & Museum has a “Hall of Honor” focused on “Men and Women of the Land” who made important contributions to the success of Stevens County.<sup>2</sup>

Home to the Morris campus of the University of Minnesota, Stevens County has the third lowest median age of the 87 counties in the state at 33.1 years. In addition to these students, however, the county also had a higher percentage of the population aged 65 years and over than the state. With low taxes, transportation, and child care costs in comparison to other counties, Stevens County reported the lowest cost of living in the state for a typical family.

## Trends

After seeing a slight increase from 1950 to 1980, Stevens County’s population dropped during the farm crisis of the 1980s and has declined even further in the past 27 years. The county lost exactly 1,000 people since 1990 to 9,634 people in 2017. Despite the population loss, Stevens County’s labor force actually increased by 360 workers from 1990 to 2017, although all of the gains came before 2000.

With a declining population and labor force but a growing economy, Stevens County has had either the second or third lowest unemployment rate in the state over most of the past decade. The county’s annual unemployment rate has been 3 percent or lower since 2015 and even dropped below 2 percent in three of the last 12 months.

Manufacturing is the largest employing industry in Stevens County, with 858 jobs at 16 firms. The largest subsector is Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing, but the county’s Cement and Concrete Product Manufacturing subsector is the most distinguishing, with a location quotient of 17.4 compared to the state. With six elementary and secondary schools providing 344 jobs and one university providing 487 jobs, Stevens County also has a higher concentration of employment in Educational Services than the state. Strangely, the county saw a decline in Health Care and Social Assistance employment overall, despite an increase in hiring at nursing and residential care facilities.

## Economy

2017 Estimates	Stevens County	Minnesota
Population	9,634	5,576,606
Labor Force	5,610	3,063,604
Average Unemployment	2.8%	3.6%
Median Household Income	\$55,941	\$63,217
Cost of Living, Individual	\$25,261	\$31,656
Cost of Living, Average Family	\$41,053	\$57,624

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, DEED LAUS, DEED Cost of Living

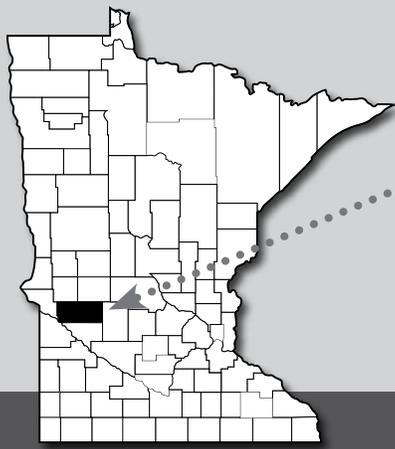
## Industry

Top Employing Industries	2017 Annual Data			2012-2017	
	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	338	5,527	\$44,821	294	5.6%
Manufacturing	16	858	\$55,611	32	3.9%
Educational Services	7	832	\$34,852	138	19.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	31	666	\$33,704	-126	-16.0%
Retail Trade	39	497	\$30,649	48	10.7%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program

<sup>1</sup>History, Stevens County Minnesota. Retrieved from [www.co.stevens.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=880](http://www.co.stevens.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=880)

<sup>2</sup>Men & Women of the Land – Hall of Honor. Stevens County Historical Society & Museum. Retrieved from [www.stevenshistorymuseum.com/men-women-of-the-land-hall-of-honor/](http://www.stevenshistorymuseum.com/men-women-of-the-land-hall-of-honor/)



# County Snapshot Swift

## Past

Swift County is primarily an agricultural county, with 564 of the county's 752 square miles in farms. Several cities and townships in Swift County gained their names from Ireland – including Dublin, Cashel, Clontarf, Kildare, and Tara townships. Swenoda township, which is in the process of acquiring a 9,500 head dairy farm that is similar to four other large dairies in the region<sup>1</sup>, has a composite name that is a compliment to its Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish settlers.<sup>2</sup>

## Trends

After losing just over 2,500 people from 2000 to 2017, Swift County was the fastest declining county in the state. However, much of that loss was caused by the closing of the Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, a 1,600 bed private prison that shut down in 2010. In addition to the loss of those “residents” from the county, the region also suffered the loss of hundreds of jobs. State legislators have recently explored options for leasing, purchasing, or operating the facility, but couldn't reach agreement during the 2018 session.

Unlike the rest of the state, Swift County's population became less racially diverse since 2000, losing residents of every race group including white, Black or African American, American Indian, Asian, Some Other Race, and Two or More Races. People of Hispanic or Latino origin saw the only increase, rising 27 percent through 2016, and now 4.3 percent of the county's population identify as Hispanic or Latino.

Swift County's labor force has also been declining over time, dropping to a low of 4,849 available workers in 2014 before climbing back to 5,073 workers in 2017. In contrast, the county's unemployment rate jumped in 2010 and has stayed at least 0.6 percent above the state rate for the past seven years.

With a cluster of strength in Agricultural Machinery, Manufacturing is the largest employing industry in Swift County with 544 jobs at 19 firms. Wholesale Trade is the next largest, with high concentrations in Farm Product Raw Material Wholesalers and Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies Wholesalers. Although not listed in the top employing industries table, Education and Health Care Services are important employers in the county, accounting for about 300 jobs each at elementary and secondary schools and health care and social assistance providers.

## Economy

2017 Estimates	Swift County	Minnesota
Population	9,407	5,576,606
Labor Force	5,073	3,063,604
Average Unemployment	4.2%	3.6%
Median Household Income	\$49,956	\$63,217
Cost of Living, Individual	\$25,702	\$31,656
Cost of Living, Average Family	\$43,738	\$57,624

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, DEED LAUS, DEED Cost of Living

## Industry

Top Employing Industries	2017 Annual Data			2012-2017	
	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Average Wage	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	333	3,680	\$39,264	53	1.5%
Manufacturing	19	544	\$55,167	-88	-13.9%
Wholesale Trade	25	343	\$65,826	4	1.2%
Retail Trade	33	326	\$19,757	10	3.2%
Public Administration	16	311	\$37,605	-8	-2.5%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program

by Cameron Macht

<sup>1</sup>“Riverview plans fifth large dairy west of Willmar.” West Central Tribune newsroom. Nov. 21, 2017. Retrieved from [www.wctrib.com/news/4362839-riverview-plans-fifth-large-dairy-west-willmar](http://www.wctrib.com/news/4362839-riverview-plans-fifth-large-dairy-west-willmar)

<sup>2</sup>History of Swift County. Swift County Minnesota. Retrieved from [www.swiftcounty.com/?SEC=539AEE2B-3D83-4E05-8602-4946C3EA6D04](http://www.swiftcounty.com/?SEC=539AEE2B-3D83-4E05-8602-4946C3EA6D04)

<sup>3</sup>Prairie Correctional Facility. West Central Tribune. Retrieved from [www.wctrib.com/tags/prairie-correctional-facility](http://www.wctrib.com/tags/prairie-correctional-facility)